

## Message Text

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47

ACTION DLOS-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-07 AGR-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FEAE-00 FMC-01 TRSE-00

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-01 OES-06 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAL-01 /136 W

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P 021027Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6613

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY

USN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 5904

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, SP

SUBJECT: LAW OF THE SEA -- SPAIN

REF: LONDON 9640, STATE 189282

1. REFERRING TO COMMENTS MADE TO ASSISTANT LEGAL ADVISER OXMAN DURING HIS VISIT TO SPAIN JUNE 18, THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S JAVIER RUPEREZ (PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO THE MINISTER) TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER ON JULY 29 THAT HE NOW STRONGLY DOUBTED THAT THE U.S. AND SPAIN'S POSITIONS ON LAW OF THE SEA COULD BE HARMONIZED. HE ATTRIBUTED THIS LARGELY TO THE VERY SERIOUS SPANISH CONCERNS ABOUT THE ISSUES AFFECTING THE CANARIES. RUPEREZ' PESSIMISM EXTENDED FURTHER TO A PERSONAL PREDICTION THAT THE PROSPECTS FOR AN AGREEMENT ON LAW OF THE SEA ARE NOW DIM.

2. THE GOS HAS MAINTAINED THROUGHOUT THE LOS NEGOTIATIONS A STRONG STAND ON ISSUES AFFECTING THE CANARIES AND RUPEREZ' CONFIDENTIAL

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REMARKS ARE NOT SURPRISING IN THIS CONTEXT. TO THE SPANISH,

SPAIN'S WITHDRAWAL FROM THE SPANISH SAHARA LEFT THE CANARIES IN AN EXPOSED POSITION THUS CONTRIBUTING TO SPAIN'S SPECIAL CONCERN OVER THE ARCHIPELAGO REGIME, AND THE MFA HAS TOLD US THAT THE CONTINENTAL SHELF ISSUE IS THE MAJOR STUMBLING BLOCK IN SPAIN'S NEGOTIATIONS WITH MOROCCO TO RESOLVE OUTSTANDING FISHING ISSUES IN THE WATERS ADJACENT TO THE CANARY ISLANDS AND THE FORMER SPANISH SAHARA NOW OCCUPIED BY MOROCCO. DURING OXMAN'S VISIT HERE THE SPANISH LOS DELEGATION WHILE EXPRESSING PESSIMISM OVER THE STATE OF THE LOS NEGOTIATIONS AND THEIR EVENTUAL POTENTIAL MEANING FOR SPAIN, AT THE SAME TIME INDICATED MOBILITY ON STRAITS ISSUES ESPECIALLY PROVIDED THAT SOME QUID COULD BE ACHIEVED WITH REGARD SPANISH FISHERIES, ARCHIPELAGO AND DELIMITATION INTERESTS.

3. INASMUCH AS RUPEREZ WORKS DIRECTLY FOR FOREIGN MINISTER OREJA, WHO POSSESSES CONSIDERABLE LOS EXPERTISE, RUPEREZ' STATEMENTS MAY REFLECT OREJA'S THINKING. I PLAN TO RAISE THIS ISSUE THE NEXT TIME I SEE HIM, BUT I WOULD APPRECIATE UP-TO-DATE GUIDANCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT IN RESPECT OF SPAIN'S SPECIFIC CONCERNS.  
STABLER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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